



SAINT JOSEPH SHRINE

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

October 16, 2021

5th Anniversary of the Institute at St. Joseph Shrine, Phase II, Year II

Dear Faithful and Benefactors:

In this Year of St. Joseph, it is an unmerited blessing to be a part of your wonderful Shrine family as your new pastor at St. Joseph Shrine. It is with great confidence and profound hope, looking at the amazing progress over the past few years, that I address my first words of gratitude, joy and encouragement to you.

Since the launch of Phase II last October, Divine Providence has poured upon our Shrine family many graces and blessings. What seemed as a new lofty goal last year is now being realized beyond expectations in very tangible ways:

- The parish contracted with RAM Construction for the \$1.9 million church stonework project. This 2- year project is on budget, ahead of schedule and is over 60 percent complete.
- Funding goals for Phase II, Year I, were quickly met and the planning for the church infrastructure and mechanical systems replacement is in process.
- The parish's house of formation is growing and can now accept, house and accommodate five new seminarian candidates plus hopefully, a third cleric.
- Initial planning for the restoration of the remaining stained-glass windows is done.

Five years ago, this parish was on the verge of closure with only one weekday and one Sunday Mass. Today, St. Joseph Shrine has ten weekday and three Sunday Masses; all very well attended. *We judge a tree by its fruits!* **Last year, St. Joseph Shrine received almost 100 new adults, children and infants into the Church, making it one of the largest classes of those receiving the sacrament of Baptism in the parish's 150-year history!**

You have become a builder, **a living stone**, for the restoration of His Holy Temple, **as originally built in 1873**, where the same Sacrifice of the Mass of Ages has been offered, is being celebrated and will continue to be celebrated with the same gravity, the same beauty, and the same solemnity proper to this Divine Liturgy.

What will you do to continue the preservation and restoration of this divine legacy entrusted to our care?

Phase II is designed to raise \$3.3 million through 2024 and is an integral part of the Historic Renewal Campaign. Each dollar raised toward the project is for a specific purpose and is intended to restore and renew the church and campus for His Greater Glory. **Please consider a new three-year pledge or larger one-time gift.**

Please familiarize yourself with the updated *Historic Renewal* Campaign material and continue to participate in the preservation and restoration of St. Joseph Shrine. *Ite ad Joseph!*

With heartfelt gratitude and paternal blessings,

Canon Commins, Pastor



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